

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	ELIMINATING THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR IN WEST AFRICA BY STRENGTHENING SUB- REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH ECOWAS–II
REGION/COUNTRY	AFRICA/Core Countries: Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria Regional: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea- Bissau, Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo
PROJECT DURATION	December 31, 2010 – April 30, 2014
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY2010: USD 5,000,000
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	<p>In Benin and Nigeria, numerous children work in worst forms of child labor (WFCL) in artisanal mines and quarries. Many of these children have been trafficked into this hazardous form of work which exposes them to injuries and diseases, while preventing them from accessing any form of education.</p> <p>In Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, thousands of children are engaged in hazardous activities in cocoa and coffee farming, including clearing fields, using machetes, and applying pesticides. While most of the children work alongside their families, others have no family relationship with the farmer and have been recruited through intermediaries or trafficked.</p> <p>The Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) comprises 15 member States, which have adopted a regional Child Policy and Strategic Plan of Action outlining a framework to assure adequate investment in children and develop programs to safeguard the well-being. The ECOWAS Child Policy and its action plan include measures for combating the WFCL, with specific actions against child trafficking. ECOWAS requires increased capacity to achieve its goals under the Child Policy and other regional plans that address the WFCL.</p>
TARGETS	<p>The project targets 4,000 children for withdrawn and prevention from the WFCL in the mining and quarry region of Benin and Nigeria and in the cocoa and coffee-producing areas of Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire.</p> <p>The project targets 3,000 families for the provision of livelihood services in order to sustainably withdraw and prevent children from the WFCL.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	This project seeks to contribute to regional and national

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U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau

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initiatives to combat the WFCL in West Africa.

Immediate Objectives:

- Accelerate progress on the elimination of the WFCL in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria
- Reinforce the capacity of ECOWAS to eliminate the WFCL in the sub-region
- Rescue and rehabilitate children from hazardous and exploitive labor, and prevent new children from entering hazardous or exploitive labor through awareness-raising campaigns and direct action programs among groups at risk;
- Provide formal and non-formal education, referral to local schools, catch-up classes, and occupational skills training to children withdrawn or prevented from exploitive child labor;
- Provide livelihood services to families, including income generation training, financial management skills development, and improved access to credit;
- Reinforce efforts related to child labor monitoring systems;
- Reinforce efforts to develop National Action Plans for eliminating the WFCL in Benin and Nigeria;
- Research the scope and nature of child labor in mining within selected areas of Nigeria; and
- Develop good practices for programming to reduce the WFCL and work with ECOWAS to disseminate these practices.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

As of March 31, 2014, the project has provided education services to 4,788 children and livelihoods services to 3,361 households.

GRANTEE

International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Governments of Benin, Ghana and Nigeria, and ECOWAS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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